

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
NEWS RELEASE



Cora Campbell, Commissioner
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UPPER COOK INLET COMMERCIAL FISHING ANNOUNCEMENT No. 14
EMERGENCY ORDER NUMBER 2S-14-12

Upper Cook Inlet Commercial Fishing Announcement No. 14 closes set gillnetting in the Kenai, Kasilof, and East Forelands Sections of the Upper Subdistrict until further notice. In compliance with 5 AAC 21.359 (b)(3)(B) *Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan*, this announcement also closes drift gillnetting within one mile of the Kenai Peninsula shoreline north of the Kenai River and within one and one-half miles of the Kenai Peninsula shoreline south of the Kenai River until further notice.

King salmon runs to Cook Inlet, including early-run Kenai River king salmon, are experiencing a period of low productivity and low run strength. The department's information, including data from inriver assessment programs, indicates that the Kenai River king salmon late-run is also experiencing low strength. Inseason projections show all indices of abundance remain well below their respective minimum inseason management objective. At this time, it does not appear that the late-run will attain adequate escapement without significant restrictions to all fisheries that harvest this stock.

Based upon this information, the Division of Sport Fish has issued an emergency order closing the Kenai River drainage to fishing for king salmon. In compliance with the *Kenai River Late-Run King Salmon Management Plan*, the Upper Subdistrict set gillnet fishery is also closed.